



# Sovereign Grace Church

**February 11th, 2024**

We gather together  
Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. and  
Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

*Nursery available for 4 years old and younger*

*“He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save  
the souls of the needy.”*

(Psalm 72:13)

Joseph D Murphy, Pastor

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**Sovereign Grace Church**

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THIS glorious Gospel that the Lord has given us to preach is a gospel that has enemies. It is a gospel that has enemies. The truth has enemies. But how great is our Lord also when He warns His Church. And, indeed, He calls us and brings us to Himself, but He also warns us about the dangers we have here on earth. There are many dangers. And what are those dangers that the word of God teaches us that the Gospel has? It is religion [Acts 15:1]. Religion is opposed to the Truth, to the Truth of Christ. Religion always wants to mix what salvation is or [they want to mix] grace with works when it is not so. That is not what the word of God teaches us; *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”* (Ephesians 2:8-9).

—Elio Chay

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## Welcome

SINNERS are welcome at Sovereign Grace Church. We are a local body of the Lord Jesus Christ. As you spend time with us, you’ll soon discover we’re an imperfect church, with an imperfect pastor, yet by God’s *undeserved* grace, we preach, believe, and know the perfect gospel of our never failing Lord Jesus Christ. Reader, we call His name Jesus for He shall (not might, not maybe) rather He shall save His people from their sins. And beloved believing sinner you already know it! You are *complete in Him*, saved to the *utmost* [Colossians 2:10, Hebrews 7:25].

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## Announcements

### Sovereign Grace Church, New Caney / Grace Conference

Elio Chay, Pastor of Seguidores de Cristo,  
Dzidzantun, Mexico

*Friday, February 23rd @ 7:30 pm,*

*Saturday, February 24th @ 11 am,*

*Sunday, February 25th @ 11 am*

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## Resources

VISIT our website for gospel articles, live messages, and resources.

## Grace Articles

### “...whose heart the Lord opened...”

*“...a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul” (Acts 16:14)*

I thank God for giving me this opportunity...to be here in this church of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not the church of man, you see, it is the church of the Lord. In the book of the Psalms, the psalmist David, he says, “*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*”—and harmony, and joy in the Gospel. Look in your Bibles in the book of Acts chapter 16. ...the word of God speaks to us, the testimony or the message that the Apostle Paul was announcing;—he is preaching the gospel. “*And...*” it tells us, verse 13, “*..on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither. 14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.*” God has the power to change and transform anyone. Any hard heart, He can change it, and give a sensitive heart that can love Him, that can worship Him. And God’s the only One who can do it. Man cannot do these things,—but to talk about such a powerful miracle, well that work only belongs to God, no one else can do it, only God—only He can do it. It’s His to give eternal life,—right? So the word of God tells us that this woman, she was baptized, along with her family, they heard the Gospel. And this is what the Holy Scriptures also teach us, that man has a responsibility to sit in the place, and hear the Gospel where it is preached.

— Elio Chay

### We have heard Him ourselves

*“...we have heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ the Savior of the world.”*

(John 4:42)

**O**UR annual Bible conference in many ways is the highlight of our year for at least three reasons.

1 We are able to have a concentrated time of worship and gospel preaching over a three-day period that glorifies our God by exalting the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of our souls.

2 It provides us the edifying experience of fellowship with each other and many of our brethren from sister churches.

3 It gives us an opportunity to extend a “special invitation” to lost friends and family in hopes that the Lord will do for them what He did for the Samaritans. “*Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world*” John 4:42.

— Greg Elmquist

## Deluded

*“...with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12)*

**M**EN of a sound mind are generally logical. They will not embrace an obvious contradiction. They simply cannot make sense of it. Until it comes to spiritual matters. Then the most analytical person will swallow non-sense and think nothing of it. They will say God is eternal, omnipotent, sovereign, and immutable, yet He is dependent upon man for something in order to save.

Is this not clear evidence that God has sent them a strong delusion because they received not the love of the truth? (2 Thessalonians 2:10-11).

If God makes a man deluded, he is deluded indeed. Oh Lord, do not leave us to ourselves. Put us in our right mind and cause us to love Christ. [AMEN!]

— Greg Elmquist

## Though I be nothing

*“I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing.” (2 Corinthians 12:11)*

**M**Y dear Friend, May the Lord go with you...and be your [rearguard]. You know enough of the ministry to be deeply sensible that only in the Lord's light do we see light, and only in His life do we feel life. To be a daily pauper living on alms is humbling to proud nature that always is seeking to be something and to do something. “Though I be nothing” was Paul's highest attainment in the knowledge of self. Much pain in wounded pride and mortified self should we be spared, were this self-nothingness wrought in us. “Venture to be nought,” says Hart. But it is like a man casting himself into the sea..., that he may be buoyed up by an invisible arm. If you can venture to be nought in your meditated journey it will save you a world of anxiety and trouble. But proud, vain, conceited flesh wants to be something, to preach well, to cut a figure [to be impressive], and be admired as a preacher. With all this there is at times a hatred of such base feelings, and a willingness to be nothing that the Lord may be all in all. But doubts whether the Lord will be with us, whether He can condescend to bless such base wretches, and whether we have not presumption enough to damn thousands, will all at times work with earnest desires and breathings that He would bless us indeed, and that His hand might be with us, and that He would speak in us, and by us, and through us; to the hearts of His chosen [elect].

Yours faithfully, for truth's sake,

— J.C. Philpot

A letter to a fellow minister of the Gospel